

## City Manager's



### Weekly Update Friday, September 14, 2007

#### Notes of Interest:

**Water Board approves permit:** The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, in a quick and painless session (35 minutes), approved a new 5-year permit for the White Slough wastewater treatment plant on Friday. There was no spoken opposition to the permit, but Friday marked the start of a 30-day window for appeals. The permit goes into effect in 50 days. Public Works Director Richard Prima was very pleased with the Regional Board's stance, considering a critical report recently issued by an engineer on the State Water Board. The City has sent the attached letter to the State Board asking that it rescind the flawed report.

**COG to hear City's appeal:** The San Joaquin Council of Government's Executive Board agreed Friday to let Lodi make its case for a seat on the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission before the full COG Board. The Mayor and City Manager attended the Executive Board meeting and pointed out that Lodi helps support the Rail Commission – and ACE train – through Measure K, and deserves better representation. The City was fortunate that Councilmember Hansen, who is an alternate COG executive board member, was seated as a voting member for the meeting.

**New hires:** The Electric Utility has hired **Weldetnsae Haile** as the new senior power engineer effective Monday. He has a master's and bachelor's degrees in electrical engineering and 20 years' experience with Alameda Power & Telecomm, Amtrak, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and utilities in Eritrea, which is on the Red Sea across from the Arabian Peninsula. ... An announcement is expected Monday regarding the City's future human resources manager. An offer has been extended and accepted. The new hire should be on board on or about October 1st.

**Honor for planning staff:** The Eastside Mobility Access Plan, completed last summer with extensive community involvement, has received a "Special Planning Award" from the Sacramento Valley Chapter of the American Planning Association. The chapter is the State's largest, comprising 22 counties. The Plan, funded by a Caltrans Environmental Justice grant, will guide future public works street projects on Sacramento Street and Lodi and Central Avenues. Planning staff will receive the award September 26th at a reception in Sacramento.

**Reaching out to development community:** Staff has contacted the Building Industry of the Delta, which represents the local development community, to see if any of its members are interested in attending a meeting about new regulations aimed at keeping pollutants, such as chemicals, sediments and organic material, out of storm drains. A workshop last month attracted about 60 attendees, including many local industries, but many in the development community who had RSVP'd did not appear. A representative of a major builder in Lodi told staff this week that many builders are already aware of the standards, which are already in effect in larger cities.

**Coastal Cleanup Day:** Volunteers will descend upon Lodi Lake Park on Saturday morning for California Coastal Cleanup Day. Nearly three dozen General Mills employees performed their cleanup earlier in the week, focusing on the area along the Mokelumne River near the Highway 99 bridge. They expressed their astonishment at the number of homeless living there and they were disgusted with the garbage and makeshift latrines.

**Bond kick-off meeting:** Staff met this week with the financial team that will guide the City through the 2007 wastewater bond process. The bonds will provide the funds needed to complete the treatment plant upgrades and wastewater transmission line repairs, but the City's rates have not included the cost of replacing the deteriorating concrete pipeline.

**Hutchins Street Square season starts:** Trio Los Panchos, one of Mexico's premier acts, kicks off the 2007-2008 season with shows Saturday and Sunday. Community Center Director Jim Rodems expects strong walk-up sales for the show, which is being heavily advertised on Spanish-language media. Trio Los Panchos reached the height of their popularity in the 1990s not only in Latin America, but in Europe and the United States.

**League hiring:** The League of California Cities is looking to hire a Central Valley representative to replace Lodi's Debbie Olson, whose last day on the job was Friday. She's been hired as Riverbank's economic development coordinator.

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